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Newsletter
Number 33
18 November 2011



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Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

.. To those parents who supported this week's senior trip to the Northland Youth Theatre and the Year 5 and 6 trip to the Whangarei Swimming Pools.

.. To those who have already completed their satisfaction survey - told you it wouldn't take long .. and those children who have completed their valuing self survey.

People of the week

.. Andrew, Brad and Caitlin who won the group cup at the central calf Club day .. a fantastic achievement. Well done!

.. Brooke who won 1st for Rearing Overall, Overall Most Obvious Pet Lamb, Reserve Champion Lamb, 1st ribbons for Rearing and Pet lamb, 3rd for whole Matarau team in parade (Brooke, Jess and Daniel).

.. Joel who grows awesome cauliflowers. Well done Joell!

.. Laura qualified for Auckland Juniors Swimming Carnival in 200m backstroke, 100m backstroke, 50m backstroke and 50m fly.

.. Euan achieved 4 personal bests in 50m breaststroke.

.. Pammy for giving up her free time and being a wonderful triage nurse for the vaccination programme.

.. All those brave children who have entered in this year's spelling bee.

School Cups

It is a matter of some urgency that school cups are returned to school for re-engraving.

Please do not polish these - we will arrange

Thanks!



Satisfaction Survey

You will recall from an earlier newsletter our intention to invite feedback from parents on various areas of school operation. Over a period, parents will be invited to comment with respect to three areas .. **school climate** .. **communication** .. and **quality of instruction**. Our first survey is in the area of school climate and this is up and ready to go. To submit your responses (10 simple multi choice questions) please go to the link below. The more responses we have the more useful will be this feedback .. takes less than 10 minutes (maybe even 5). Alternatively, feel free to give Kevin a call to work through your responses over the phone.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TFQ8D8C>

Being Valued (survey for children years 3 to 8)

You will also be aware that our overarching virtues focus this year has been around valuing self and others. We are keen to collect information which will help us to monitor the emotional 'wellness' of our students. Please find the link below and ask your child to work through the questions (they will discuss these with teachers next week so they know what to expect). **It is REALLY important that you do NOT lead them in responding to any questions .. the responses must be entirely theirs to be of any real value.** Many thanks.
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G5FCSZ9>

Please note that you will only be able to respond once from any given computer - please contact the school office for additional hard copies if required. BOTH SURVEYS WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 2 DECEMBER.

Parent Helpers Morning Tea

*Parents / caregivers who have helped at school in any way this year are
invited to a morning tea to be held in the school hall
on Thursday 8 December starting 10:30am.
This is our chance to thank you for the difference you have made to our school.
To help with catering please give Helen a call next week if
you think you might be in attendance.*

Respect Virtue

Would love to hear of some special successes so we can put these in next week's newsletter.

Sun Safe Clothing

The Cancer Society recommends that sun safe clothing is worn in the summer months. While we do have a regulation sunhat, other items of clothing are generally left to the discretion of children and their parents. Having said this, we would like to encourage sun safe clothing where possible which includes shoulders and mid riffs covered. This is especially important given that lunch time for many children means an hour or so in the hot Northland Sun. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Yr 9 Entrance Testing and Interviews

Last **entrance test** this year will be on **TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER at 9am**. Students need to arrive at 8:45 with pencil, rubber, ruler and snack.. They should be finished by 11:30am.

Enrolment interviews will continue up to **1 DECEMBER**. These are after school starting at 3:45 (15 minute time slots) with last appt at 5pm. As our Senior students have now left there may an option for an interview during the school day if parent prefer. However, that means taking the student out of school.

If students have not sat the test or completed an interview they **MAY NOT** be able to start school on the first day next year which would be a shame. The first two days are especially organised so that Y9's can find their way round before the whole school returns.

Home Garden Update

Children met again this week for the purpose of sharing and mutual encouragement. On Thursday children also swapped seedlings and seeds with each other.

This week home gardeners received a "Consent to Visit Form" for return next week please. Please note that judges will NOT visit your child's garden if a "Consent to Visit Form" has not been returned to school. If you did not receive a form please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Please note the following dates ..

- .. *Home Garden Diaries are due at school please on Friday 25 November*
- .. *Gardens will be judged on Saturday 3 December*

Leaving Books

You may be aware that it is a Matarau tradition for the Board of Trustees to present all Year 8 students with a leaving book. This week our Year 8 students received a book voucher to put towards a book of their choice. Thank you in anticipation parents for assisting in their purchase of a suitable book. The vouchers are redeemable at most book stores. Books are to be returned to school to be officially presented at prize giving on 13 December.

Drink Bottles

Please ensure your child brings a drink bottle to school each day to place on their desk. Water is best.

Request from Room 9

If anyone has any sun umbrella's (with stands) that Room 9 could borrow for awhile it would be most appreciated as the children are completing an outdoor mosaic and these umbrella's would provide valuable shade during the heat of the day. If you can be of assistance please contact Mrs Witte or the office.

School Contributions

Those who opted for term payment of school contributions and activity fees will have received a request for their final instalment last week. Please forward payment as soon as possible and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or to discuss alternative payment arrangements. A small number of families also owe for activity or technology fees from earlier in the year and we are keen to receive these as soon as possible please.

Spelling Bee .. Heats get underway this coming week. Best wishes to all participants.



PMP - Helpers Needed

We have a shortage of helpers for this term. If you are able to help out on a Tues or Wed from 1.30-3.00 (even just one day) please see Rachael Robertson.

Year 7 and 8 Senior Beach Volley Ball

Children depart 8:40AM Wednesday 23 November. Any questions in the run up to Mr D please.

Hearing and Vision Tests

.. were conducted at school this week for new entrants and children previously seen. Matters of concern are advised directly to parents with a suggested course of action.

Meningitis vaccinations

A reminder that vaccinations are available at the temporary DHB Community Immunisation Clinic - Shop 4, Strand Arcade, Central Whangarei for those who have missed these. No appointment necessary.

Art Scholarships

Portfolios are due 28 November 3:30 PM. If you would like to enter your child, and you have not received the background information, please contact their teacher or the school office. Please note that entry criteria have been amended this year to allow 2 items from a previous year and one from an out of school activity (with some conditions). We hope to see a high level of interest in these scholarships with potential to win a trophy at prizegiving and \$125 for each of the two winning students. Mrs Witte has kindly offered to assist with portfolios and to give advice to students.



International Student Homestays

Would love to hear from more families willing to host international students - even for periods of up to four weeks. Income from this is usually around \$180 per week per child. If interested in hosting a child please give Kevin a call to further discuss. Most families who have hosted international students in the past have testified to the value of the experience and we are hoping for some support.

Garden Club Co-ordinator

Our present Garden Club Co-ordinator is moving overseas. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in helping out next year please contact the school office. This may suit a grandparent, neighbour who has an interest in gardening.

Fundraising Chocolate

If you have not returned your chocolates or money yet, please do so asap as the money is now being finalised.

Community Notices

For Rent – 3 bdrm house, Pipiwai Rd, newly decorated, modern kitchen and new bathroom (heated floor), fully insulated \$310 pw Phone 021828526 or email merieljd@xtra.co.nz

For Sale - 1999 Honda Foreman – Good Condition – Ideal for Beach – Ph Edwin 0274 770 191

For Sale - Half sides of beef(2) professionally butchered and packaged to your requirements. Approx 145kg per half, \$900 total cost (\$300 deposit to secure order).

Contact for more details Michele Blagrove or Stephen Duckmanton after hours 09 4335 735 or Michele 027 6100 303 or Stephen @ Kamo Police 09 4355766.

Reliable Baby-Sitter Available - Previous pupil Holly Duckmanton (refer Mr T or Mr D if details required) is available to babysit in the Matarau/Ruatangata/Kamo area. Year 12 student with own transport and experience, very reliable. Rate \$15/hour first 3 hours, then \$10 per hour. Contact details phone home 09 4335 735.

Daylong SPF30+ Sunscreen (water resistant for 80 minutes), 8 hours sun-protection from a single application.

It really does work! Perfect for School (and work and summer holidays!) Available at Unichem Kamo Dispensary (Bush Rd) & Unichem Kamo. 15% discount to Matarau School families. Just ask in-store. Offer Valid until Feb 20

Northland Youth Theatre Production – Aurora is on 16-26 November at the Old Library. Tickets at venue, ph 4306042. This will be a great quality children's production.

Kidz Camp - Marsden Bay Holiday Camp, Jan 9th-14th, wide variety of activities. Ph Helena 094447456/0273806323 or info@marsdenbay.com

Summer Camps – Outdoor activities. For more information visit www.scriptureunion.org.nz or ph 0800 7822677.

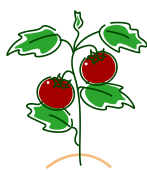
Paihia Oceans Kids Swim - Saturday 10 December, 10.30am, Paihia Beach. To register or for more info visit www.oceankids.co.nz.

Tupperware Fund Raiser

On Friday 25 November Michelle Blagrove will be holding a Tupperware demonstration in the school library starting 2:30 PM. Please contact Michelle on 4335735 if you have any specific requests in the run up. Michelle will be demonstrating the latest summer releases. Any qualifying gifts will be donated to the school for fund-raising.

Whangarei A & P Ag Day

Entries are now open for the A&P Summer Show on Saturday 3rd December 2011. All pet calf, lamb or goat entries received before 14 November receive a free ticket to the Show! Gate admission for the Show is \$5.00 per person, with under 5 year olds free. Visit www.summershow.co.nz for more information.



Organic Vegetable Plants

If running late with plantings (or if wanting certified organic seedlings for your garden), locally grown in Ruatangata to biogro standards. Phone Rebecca Agnew on 4351030. Rebecca will have a seedling stall at school on Friday (Calf Club Day) on the lower field with a dollar donation to the school for each seedling or pot/punnet sold .. and thereafter will set up a stall

each Friday of November 3:00 - 3:20 PM by the upper carpark.

2011 Achievement Targets

Most of you will be aware that the school is required to identify areas of relative underperformance and to set achievement targets in these areas. This year we set targets in mathematics, reading comprehension and reading vocabulary .. please see below

Area	March scores	National comparison	Target	Outcome (November)
Mathematics PAT	42% of children achieving stanine 6 and above.	40% of children achieving stanine 6 and above nationally	55% of children will be achieving stanine 6 and above	64% of children now achieving stanine 6 and above
	36% of children stanine 4 and below	40% of children nationally achieving stanine 4 and below	Fewer than 20% of children will be achieving stanine 4 and below	17% of children now achieving stanine 4 and below
Reading Comprehension PAT	18% of children achieving stanine 7-9	23% of children nationally achieving stanine 7-9	25% of children will be achieving stanine 7-9	50% of children now achieving stanine 7-9
	18% of children achieving stanine 1-3	23% of children nationally achieving stanine 1-3	Fewer than 13% of children will be achieving stanine 1-3	4% of children now achieving stanine 1-3
Reading Vocabulary PAT	16% of children achieving stanine 7-9	23% of children nationally achieving stanine 7-9	25% of children will be achieving stanine 7-9	40% of children now achieving stanine 7-9
	20% of children achieving stanine 1-3		Fewer than 13% of children will be achieving stanine 1-3	5% of children now achieving stanine 1-3
Juniors			60% of year 1's will correctly write 20 words or more	68% of year 1s can correctly write 20 words or more
			60% of year 2s will correctly write 40 words or more	79% of year 2s can correctly write 40 words or more

Even a cursory glance shows significant progress has been made school wide towards the achievement of these goals. The challenge now is to sustain these gains and to identify further areas for improvement. Congratulations to children, staff and parents for these stunning achievements. These results show most children working well above the National Standards.

Final Thought

Joke from Maddison .. Why did the chicken cross the road with one leg? It was escaping from Kentucky Fried Chicken!

Regards

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them





KAMO AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

New members welcome

Stroke improvement classes - Monday & Friday afternoons from 4.30pm, start Monday 7th November.

Club nights – Wednesdays, start 30th November 2011 at 6.00pm, great atmosphere, timed races.

Swimmers must be reasonably confident in water and be able to swim 10-15m unaided.

- **Registration** – Friday or Monday at Kamo High School, end of Wilkinson Ave
- **For further enquiries contact Chris 433 5099 or Helen 433 5823 or Sharon 027 631 9361**



Congratulations Brooke and Rosie the Lamb

Comrie Park Kindergarten Garage Sale/Community Day

Saturday 26th November 2011

8:00am - 2pm at the Kindergarten, 109 Matarau Rd

Garage sale items, pony rides, bouncy castle, face painting,
hair braiding, sausage sizzle and more...

Gold coin donation to raise funds to buy new resources for
our Kindergarten. We'd love your support!